

NCLB
Committee of Practitioners
Alhambra Elementary District
4510 N. 37th Avenue, Room D
Phoenix, AZ 85019
May 9, 2003

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

COP MEMBERS

Julia Ayres
Carol Beckett
Christine Bejarano
Marge Carrithers
Steve Chambers
Karen Copley
Kaye Dean
Analizabeth Doan
Shelly Duran
Robert Edgar
Tonya Ford
Diane Fox
Tim Frey
Lannie Gillespie
Sylvia Johnson
Mary Anne Kapp

Gloria Keith
Barbara Kilian
Bob Klee
Lois Lamar
Jean Lewis
Norma Malamud
Patricia Marsh
Mary McIntyre
Joe O'Reilly
Patricia Osborne
Alejandro Perez
Gail Powell
Julie Thayer
Lynn Thompson
Barbara U'Ren

ADE

Catherine Hintze
Garrett Holm
Joyce Hunter
Juana Jose
Nancy Konitzer
Carrie Larson
Marie Mancuso
Pauline Rudloff
Kim Strehlow
Nancy Stahl
Katie Stevens

GUESTS

Cecil Kempton
Marv Lamer

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kaye Dean called the meeting to order at 9 am. She introduced Marie Mancuso, the ADE Deputy Associate Superintendent for *Reading First*, whose presentation would follow the subcommittee reports.

Members were thanked for their enthusiastic participation in the May 8 workshop: "Identifying Research-based Solutions for School Improvement." The workshop had been requested by COP members and consisted of an overview of basic research principles and a step-by-step process that educators and schools may use to evaluate any research report against the "Gold Standard" of SBR. It was pointed out that just 5% of available education research studies meet the Gold Standard. Two websites are good resource tools for finding these studies: The What Works Clearinghouse at www.whatworks.org, and the National Center for Comprehensive School Reform (NCCSR) website at www.goodschools.gwu.edu.

Katie Stevens, retiring ADE Deputy Associate Superintendent and past Program Director of the Academic Support Division, was welcomed and presented with a plaque from COP members in recognition of her outstanding support for the Arizona Title I Program and the COP during the previous several years.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES – Norma Malamud

In response to a request made at the March meeting, all *Reading First* grant applicants were provided with a list of the five research-based reading program components required under NCLB and A.R.S. 15-704 in terms of scientifically based research (SBR). The State Board has approved the grade-level articulation of the Arizona Academic Standards for Reading and for Mathematics.

Regional NCLB workshops will be held by the ADE Academic Achievement Division in August and September to provide training on FY 04 NCLB fiscal applications and submission of the Final Consolidated LEA Plan due by Dec. 31, 2003. LEA eligibility for '04 NCLB funds is based on the existence of an approved Interim LEA Consolidated Plan. Lynn Thompson from Yuma said that smaller districts would benefit from additional technical assistance on NCLB compliance issues.

RECOGNITION – Shelly Duran

The Distinguished Schools program is currently on hold. An implementation plan is being developed which would rank-order schools based on the greatest gains made and publicly honor and identify the strengths of these schools. In addition to the recognition provided at the MEGA Conference Awards Banquet, the selected schools would receive a plaque and a \$5000 bonus, if the plan is approved when submitted to COP members this fall.

ACCOUNTABILITY – Tim Frey

The desire on behalf of Superintendent Horne was to give Title I schools the benefit of the doubt to help show their accomplishments by weighting the MAP scores up to 40% of the total formula for determining whether AYP was met and which label was achieved under AZ LEARNS. Questions were deferred to the afternoon when Garrett Holm would make his presentation to the group.

Joe O'Reilly noted that AIMS data would be available electronically in Excel by concept, and in the future, by test item. By 2006, AIMS will be administered annually in each grade from 3 through 8. Getting the data to all of the districts in a teacher-friendly format remains the biggest problem. The state testing program, AZ LEARNS, is working on a formula for determining the district and charter Achievement Profiles that must be produced each year. SAIS numbers are not accurate at present with problems existing in producing correct enrollment counts.

MEMBERSHIP – Steve Chambers

Nadine Groenig was thanked for processing 50 applications submitted to the COP for new and continuing members. No applications were received for Emeritus status. Criteria for nomination included previous attendance for continuing members, geographic location and the match between an individual's area of expertise and the slot to be filled. Following Garrett Holm's AYP presentation, the new members will be selected by vote of the COP from among the 50 applicants (an impressive number, according to the USDE Review Team). Clarification was made that election of officers will take place at the first FY 2004 COP meeting.

READING FIRST – Marie Mancuso

Reading First is an element of AZ READS, the comprehensive, collaborative effort to ensure that all Arizona children will learn to read no later than the third grade. Under NCLB, Arizona received a grant of \$17,700,000, including \$3.5 million for state planning and administration, professional development and technical assistance to local educational agencies or LEAs. Awards to eligible LEAs account for \$14.2 million dollars.

In the first funding round 122 eligible LEAs were identified. Of these, 26 districts covering 64 schools with an estimated 1400 teachers and 27,000 K-3 students were successful in receiving grants of \$200,000 per year for up to three years. A second funding round will be held in 2005. Training was provided to 15 individuals called *county reading specialists* who will provide technical assistance to LEAs on-site at the county level.

Many additional activities and training opportunities are also being conducted by Marie and her staff, who have moved to 2005 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, email mmancus@ade.az.gov or call 602-364-2333 for more information.

AZ LEARNS UPDATE – Garrett Holm

Garrett discussed the integration of the state academic evaluation program, AZ LEARNS, with the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). The goal of purposeful school accountability in Arizona is the fair and accurate measurement of school performance designed to publicly identify and improve our schools. The NCLB requires every state to develop a single statewide accountability system for all public schools. Additionally, Arizona must develop a timeline that effectively ensures that 100% of our students are proficient with the Arizona Academic Standards for reading and math by 2013-2014. The ADE Research and Accountability staff submitted the revised NCLB *Accountability Workbook* containing our timeline to the USDE for approval on April 30, 2003.

Federal criteria for determining *adequate yearly progress* or AYP under NCLB include:

- **95%** of students enrolled in a school or district, based on the average daily attendance (ADA) taken from SAIS data, must be assessed annually;
- all *measurable objectives* must be met annually by all students individually and by each subgroup specified by NCLB (economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient or LEP, special education students, and racial/ethnic categories of students); and,
- all students must demonstrate adequate gain or meet threshold criteria for the *additional indicator*.

On May 1, the Arizona Legislature passed changes to AZ LEARNS that extend the timeline for the school improvement process to take hold and delay the imposition of the *failing* classification. In regard to labels describing the status of Arizona schools revealed by test scores and other critical indicators, the categories are changed to *excelling*, *highly performing*, *performing*, *underperforming* and *failing*.

A methodological change to the AZ LEARNS formula has been made to integrate NCLB requirements. The minimum number of students required for accountability has been raised to

30. This number is also called the *N size*. It applies to the total student count of a school or district, the grade-level counts, and the specified subgroup counts.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES – Kim Strehlow

Kim announced that a Supplemental Services Support Group has been formed and a list of 60 questions has been whittled down to just 19. The question of providers being allowed to go into students' homes instead of having students come to their location or providing services on the school site is being discussed in terms of liability with the Attorney General's Office. She requested the group's assistance with revising the supplemental services provider (SSP) application and scoring rubric. The next selection round should open by the end of May with a deadline of August 1, 2003, for application submittal.

The list of approved providers is posted on the ADE website: www.ade.az.gov. Providers currently remain on the ADE-approved list without having to reapply unless the ADE has cause to remove a vendor. Consideration is being given to having the State Board also approve the providers' list.

As a reminder, it was determined that set-asides exceeding the amount needed for transportation and/or supplemental services costs may be reallocated by districts after October or whenever deadlines set by districts for parents to choose a different school or request supplemental services for their children has passed (even as late as Nov. or Dec.).

NEW MEMBERS SELECTED – Steve Chambers

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of eligible applicants for COP membership and vote by category to be filled. The motion passed unanimously. New members are: Lucille Schonbrun – School Administrators; Allen L. Grell and David Baker – Principal/Asst. Principals; Charlotte Wing, Leticia R. Lujan and Maxine Roanhorse-Dineyazhe – Parents; Jill Martinez – Elementary Teachers; Ronda Owens and Ron Neil – School Board Members; Alejandro Perez and Lynn Monson – Charter Schools; Barbara Kilian and Connie Heath – Delinquent Programs; Maureen West, Mary Anne Kapp and Armida Hernandez – Federal Program Directors; Joan Johnson – Non-public School Representative; Marion Jewell – Higher Education; and Julie Thayer – School Improvement/Support.

MEETING DATES FOR FY 2004 – Kaye Dean

Aug. 22, 2003; Sept. 26, 2003; Jan. 9, 2004; Mar. 5, 2004; and May 7, 2004

Adjournment at 3:30 pm.